

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 17677 281722Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 17677

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, IT
SUBJECT: CSCE COMMISSION--EUROPEAN TRIP

REF: STATE 258171

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF REFTEL WITH CHIEF OF MFA'S CSCE OFFICE (FRANCESCHI) WHO VIEWED FAVORABLY IDEA OF CSCE COMMISSION VISIT TO ROME AS IT REPRESENTS FURTHER EXAMPLE OF IMPORTANCE AMERICANS ATTACH TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. FRANCESCHI ALSO UNDERSTOOD POINT (PARA. 7 REFTEL) THAT THE EMBASSY REMAINS THE CHANNEL FOR OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND ITALY ON CSCE MATTERS.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO THE ABOVE CONVERSATION AND AFTER GETTING A REPORT OF IT FROM FRANCESCHI, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS GARDINI TELEPHONED DCM TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT IDEA OF MEMBERS OF CSCE COMMISSION MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MFA. THRUST OF GARDINI'S ARGUMENT WAS THAT ON PREVIOUS OCCASION, MFA OFFICIALS HAD SPOKEN FRANKLY TO AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN ONLY TO HAVE THEIR NAMES AND VIEWS REFERRED TO IN AN OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL REPORT. ITALIAN DAILYNEWSPAPER THEN PLAYED BACK IN SUMMARIZED AND DISTORTED MANNER THESE VIEWS PRESENTING SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT TO ITALIAN DIPLOMATS AT A TIME OF A DIFFICULT POLITICAL SITUATION INSIDE THE COUNTRY. (GARDINI WAS REFERRING DIRECTLY TO CODEL RYAN VISIT IN AUGUST 1975 WHICH RESULTED IN THE RELEASE OF REPORT NO. 60-436-75 BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE. LA REPUBBLICA SUBSEQUENTLY DID A STORY DRAWING
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PAGE 02 ROME 17677 281722Z

IN PART ON THE RYAN REPORT--EMBTel 14912). CONTINUING, GARDINI

SUGGESTED THAT GENERALLY PARLIAMENTARIANS SHOULD SPEAK TO PARLIAMENTARIANS AND GOVERNMENTS SHOULD SPEAK TO GOVERNMENTS ON QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WHILE NOT RULING OUT EVENTUAL MFA COOPERATION ITA POSSIBLE VISIT BY COMMISSION MEMBERS, GARDINI CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD GROUND RULES, INVOLVING CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY DISCUSSIONS THAT TAKE PLACE WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED. ALTERNATIVELY, HE HYPOTHESIZED THAT BEST APPROACH MIGHT BE FOR THE COMMISSION TO SUBMIT WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THOUGHTFUL MANNER BY MFA WHICH WOULD THEN PROVIDE WRITTEN REPLIES.

3. COMMENT. HAVING SEEN THE "BURNING" OF HIS IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR BY THE RYAN REPORT, GARDINI IS OBVIOUSLY LEERY ON THE SUBJECT OF MEETINGS BETWEEN HIMSELF OR OTHER MFA OFFICIALS AND AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS. AT THE SAME TIME HIS REACTION ALSO SEEMED TO REFLECT A MEASURE OF PERPLEXITY OVER THE ROLE OF THE CSCE COMMISSION ENTERING INTO THE PROCESS OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF CSCE COMPLIANCE. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES TO GO THROUGH WITH ITS PLANS TO SEND A GROUP TO ITALY, WE EXPECT THAT THERE WOULD BE AT LEAST A MINIMUM OF COOPERATION FROM LOCAL OFFICIALDOM. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ON THE BASIS THAT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE COMMENTS OF THE ITALIAN PARTICIPANTS WOULD HAVE TO BE PRESERVED.VOLPE

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